

Is there a website for the STEM Magnet@BU program?

**Yes - <http://bloomu.edu/stem-magnet>  
<http://www.centralcolumbia.k12.pa.us/Page/1152> - Power Point presentation from CCHS**

It appears that the STEM Magnet@BU is looking for a 2 year commitment from the students. Is this correct?

**Yes. Two school years, plus four non-consecutive days during the summer that you are a rising Junior and four non-consecutive days during the summer that you are a rising Senior.**

If the program turns out not to be the right choice, can the students withdraw and enroll in the equivalent AP classes back at Berwick? Is there a point in the semester where a withdrawal would have an effect on their 'permanent' record?

**As with all classes at BHS, once schedule changes have been completed during the summer, students are committed to that course, this program for the full year. It would be possible to withdrawal after completion of Year 1 and not return for Year 2.**

Is STEM Magnet@BU just for engineering?

**Coursework is geared towards that \*field, but these courses should fit other fields that require critical thinking and problem solving within math and the sciences. Those interested in medical careers would not have the flexibility to schedule other electives in place of what BU is offering. Courses over two years: Computer Science, Coding, \*Engineering Sampler, Calculus I or II, Physics I, Physics II, \*Technical Writing, Economics, Ethics.**

**Examine the coursework, would it be a benefit to have that type of "high school" preparation for your potential career choice as compared to the AP offerings at BHS? You need to make the best choice for you and your future.**

What is the cost to the student/family of STEM Magnet@BU?

**Tuition for the 2013-2014 year is \$3100. Mr. Brookhart is pursuing scholarship funds to defray or cover this expense. BU may also offer some financial assistance, but this too is pending. These courses are not eligible for standard federal nor college financial aid.**

**"We (BU) have been working with local businesses for funding. At this point, I believe we will have enough money to pay for each student – but I don't have final totals yet. What I've been telling the students and their parents is that we will have scholarship info when they receive their acceptance letter."**

**Dr. Eliz. Mauch, BU Dean of Education**

Who will be attending the STEM classes? Are students placed with the University students?

**STEM Magnet@BU classes are dedicated to the HS students attending from Berwick, Central Columbia and Bloomsburg.**

What would be the student's day/schedule?

**BHS: periods 01 - 04 (ends 11:03) – take required English, History, PE, Electives**

**BU 2013-2014: M,W,F 1:00 -1:50 ; T, Th 12:30 – 2:15 – STEM classes meet required Math and Science**

**STEM Magnet@BU will have three semesters. Students will take two courses during the traditional Fall semester, one course during a Winter Semester (December/January – BU's normal semester break), and two courses during the traditional Spring Semester. During the Winter Semester the single course may meet every day, time tbd.**

Transportation?

**BASD will provide transportation to BU and back each day.**

After school conflicts?

**BU classes are scheduled to end at 1:50; students should be back to BHS by 2:30. If student is involved in athletics and the sporting team is being dismissed early for travel to an away event, student will have to make approved arrangements. BASD will not provide individualized transportation.**

Conflicts with BHS Band?

**Currently Band is scheduled during Fifth period. For 2013-2014 Band may be moved to an earlier period depending upon if any BHS Band members enroll in the program.**

Can student complete both STEM and Dual Enrollment courses?

**Yes**

How will the grades from the STEM@BU classes be factored into the overall GPA? What will the weighting be?

**STEM Magnet@BU courses will be weighted the same as an AP course, 1.08 and factored into the student's GPA at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period for Fall Semester, 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period for Winter Semester, and 4<sup>th</sup> marking period for Spring semester. BHS Honors 1.04, Dual Enrollment 1.06, AP & STEM 1.08. Students will receive a separate Grade Report from Bloomsburg University for these courses; they will not be reported on the BHS Report Card (though cumulative GPA will reflect those grades as answered previously).**

When applying to college – how will these grades be reflected on the transcript?

**Grades will be recorded on both the BHS transcript and be available on a BU transcript. The courses listed on the BHS transcript would somehow be designated as STEM @BU. This is similar to Dual Enrollment, where courses are marked with course title followed by (DE).**

Will STEM students be considered College Transfer Students as they will have completed 30 college credits by the end of the two-year program?

**No, similar to Dual Enrollment students, they are still considered to be HS students. This maintains their eligibility for federal/college financial aid. The course credits will be reflected on their HS transcript and they will also have access to a BU transcript of college credits which can then be forwarded to the eventual college of choice. Any decision about whether the college of choice will accept each of these credits is at the discretion of that particular college.**

**Inquire at the college(s) to which you may be intending to apply after BHS. Check with an admissions counselor or Dean of Transfer Students. Colleges often have a list of colleges and courses they readily accept. As these courses are new, the individuals at the colleges may help you to navigate this better.**

Berwick Area High School

STEM Magnet@BU (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Magnet School at Bloomsburg University)

Q & A

Given some of the admissions directors at the more selective universities may not be familiar with this (new) program or with Bloomsburg U, it was suggested by a college coach that an AP exam would provide a frame of reference as it is a national test – STEM graduates will be competing for admission with students who will have likely taken AP exams. Would there be an issue taking the AP exam – do you suppose the curriculum will be similar?

**Yes, a student can sit for AP Exam without taking the specific AP course. Mr. Croop was confident the District will pay for AP Exams for STEM students in the appropriate courses, as they do for any BHS AP student. However, what is unknown is how similar the STEM Magnet@BU curriculum would be compared to the AP curriculum requirements. [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) lists the AP courses and the topics covered for each AP course.**

Has it been decided which professors will teach the classes? Is there a commitment on BU's part that it will be a professor rather than a TA or adjunct faculty?

**"For the fall, Dr. John Polhill will teach the Coding class and Dr. Drue Coles will teach the CS class. They are both long-time faculty of the Math, CS & Stats dept. Dr. Peter Stine is going to lead the January class – he's the chair of the Physics class. Dr. Stine will probably also teach the Engineering class in the Spring – although that hasn't been set yet (we don't need to set the Spring schedule until August). The Calculus Classes will be determined – we are thinking we'll probably have to give the students a placement test in the Fall to determine which class we give them.**

**In general, we are planning to only use faculty. If I had a good temporary faculty member, I would use them if it was appropriate."**

**Dr. Elizabeth Mauch, BU Dean of Education**